

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 01260 020402Z  
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 INT-05 L-03 COME-00 IO-13  
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 CEQ-01 SMI-01 DODE-00  
DLOS-09 EB-08 /068 W  
-----084247 021008Z /15  
R 020330Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6606  
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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TOKYO FOR RFA

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EFIS, IWD-1, TW  
SUBJECT: ROC WHALING ACTIVITIES

REF: STATE 042771

1. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM JOINT COMMISSION ON RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (JCRR) AND TAIWAN FISHERIES BUREAU INDICATES THAT ONE MEDIUM SIZED VESSEL (200-300 TON RANGE) UNDER CHINESE REGISTRY OUT OF KAOHSIUNG, HAS APPARENTLY BEEN ENGAGED IN COASTAL WHALING WITH OCCASIONAL FORAYS INTO THE OPEN PACIFIC. THE CASE IS STILL UNDER GROC INVESTIGATION. THERE IS NO KNOWN MARKET FOR WHALE PRODUCTS IN TAIWAN, AND FISHERY BUREAU AND JCRR OFFICIALS SUSPECT THAT CATCH OF VESSEL IN QUESTION, BELIEVED TO BE NO MORE THAN ONE OR TWO WHALES A YEAR, IS BEING LANDED IN JAPAN OR AT JAPANESE OPERATION FACILITIES OUTSIDE TAIWAN WATERS. THESE OFFICIALS ALSO SUGGEST THAT IT HAS BEEN CHARTERED BY A JAPANESE PARTY OR IS OTHERWISE SUBJECT TO JAPANESE FINANCIAL INTEREST OR CONTROL. THEY ALSO ASSERT THAT THERE MUST BE JAPANESE SPECIALISTS ABOARD, INASMUCH AS TAIWANESE LACK WHALING SKILLS, PARTICULARLY THE ABILITY TO USE A WHALING GUN.

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PAGE 02 TAIPEI 01260 020402Z

2. ACCORDING TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE TAIWAN FISHERIES BUREAU, GROC HAS NO INTENTION OF ENCOURAGING ESTABLISHMENT OF ROC WHALING INDUSTRY. ON CONTRARY, EVEN THOUGH ROC IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE IWC, THE DIRECTOR CONSIDERS THE ACTIVITIES REPORTED ABOVE TO BE BOTH ILLEGAL AND

FINANCIALLY UNWISE. DIRECTOR ALSO STATES THAT THERE HAVE BEEN APPLICATIONS FROM OTHER ROC FISHERY FIRMS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF WHALING VESSELS, BUT THEY HAVE BEEN TURNED DOWN, AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE TURNED DOWN. IF IT CAN BE PROVEN THAT THE CATCH OF THE ONE VESSEL UNDER INVESTIGATION IS BEING LANDED ILLEGALLY OUTSIDE TAIWAN, THE BUREAU INTENDS TO RESTRICT FURTHER USE OF THIS VESSEL FOR WHALING. HOWEVER, IT IS OFTEN DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE REAL OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL OF VESSELS UNDER CHINESE REGISTRY, OR TO CATCH OFFENDERS IN THE ACT.

3. EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE IT NECESSARY TO SEND GROC FORMAL NOTE EXPRESSING CONCERN, IN ABSENCE OF CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE OF GROC GROSS REGULATORY NEGLIGENCE OF COLLUSION WITH WHALING INTERESTS. UNGER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** WHALING, INVESTIGATIONS, VIOLATIONS, RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**TAGS:** EFIS, PORG, TW, IWC-1  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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